

CONNECTION

A Newsletter for Miami-Dade County Public Schools Parents

MARCH 2018

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 41

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Safe Schools
- Coping with Tragedy
- School Calendars

M-DCPS SUPPORTS BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



We stand with our neighbors in Broward

DOUGLAS STRONG!

#MSDStrong

TEACHING CHILDREN ABOUT SWIM SAFETY

Water safety is a major concern every year because there is just so much water in Florida! It's especially a challenge when the weather gets warmer, the water looks cool, and children are tempted to jump in.

This is why Miami-Dade County Public Schools is teaching kids to swim, in oversized pools that travel from school to school.

Our Learn to Swim Program is entering its 43rd year with



thousands of Miami-Dade students learning to swim each year! It is our way of helping families ensure that

water-related activities are enjoyed safely. For more information, visit:

<http://pe.dadeschools.net/learntoswim.asp>

SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

MAR. 21

11 a.m.

Regular Meeting

APRIL 25

10 a.m.

Conference Session:
Attendance Zones for
2018-2019

11 a.m.

Regular Meeting; Initial
Reading - Attendance
Zones for 2018-2019

IMPORTANT DATES & INFORMATION

March 23- Teacher Planning Day
March 26-30- Spring Recess
April 19- Regular school day (previously secondary early release)
April 20- Regular school day (previously teacher planning day)

RAIL SAFETY



M-DCPS has partnered with Brightline to launch a safety awareness campaign, to ensure families are aware that Brightline is beginning its service in the next few weeks. With trains running at 79 MPH, it is important that everyone follow safety procedures near a railroad crossing.

Important Safety Tips:

- Walking or playing on railroad tracks or the right-of-way on either side of the tracks is against the law.
- Trains move faster and are closer than they appear.
- It takes a mile or more for a train to stop in an emergency.
- Always stay behind the yellow line on train station platforms.
- Cross only where you see designated crossings.
- Never cross tracks when you see a moving train.

M-DCPS COMMITTED TO SAFE SCHOOLS

In the wake of the act of violence committed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, the School Board and the entire M-DCPS family continue to offer support to the Broward community. Members of the District's Crisis Team, including psychologists, social workers, and family counselors, are providing additional support to Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) students, staff and families.

Immediately following this terrible incident, M-DCPS leaders began a comprehensive assessment of existing school security and safety protocols with the aim of identifying opportunities for improvement. The result of the evaluation is a series of recommended enhancements to the district's safety protocols, developed in collaboration with local and state agencies, to ensure that every Miami-Dade school is safe.

School Board Chair Perla Tabares Hantman, Superintendent Alberto M. Carvalho, Miami Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez, County Commission Chairman

Esteban L. Bovo, and State Attorney Katherine Fernandez-Rundle authored a joint letter to lawmakers in pursuit of long-term solutions to increase student safety. Requests included an additional \$30 million in state funding needed to support enhancements expected to strengthen school safety.

Beginning immediately, the following steps are being taken:

- Teachers have been directed to lock their classrooms during the school day. Entrance after class period begins will require a key or knock for entrance.
- All secondary schools will implement mandatory school-issued ID use.
- All schools are being evaluated to reduce points of entry on campus, and protocols related to drills and school lockdowns are under review.
- All available law enforcement and mental health resources are being redeployed to school sites.
- New and absolute directives related to school security personnel performance

have been issued, requiring all security personnel – without exception – to wear identifiable uniforms to increase visibility on campus.

- Parent communication is being enhanced through the use of text messaging to provide information when a threat is received and notification once a threat has been cleared.

Parents, students and staff of M-DCPS should be aware that Miami-Dade Schools Police Department (M-DSPD) takes every threat made to schools seriously. M-DSPD thoroughly investigates each one to determine the validity of the threat and to identify the perpetrator.

As always, the safety and well-being of students and staff are priorities. Everyone is reminded to report any suspicious activity by calling 305-995-COPS (2677) or 305-471-TIPS (8477).

Remember, if you See Something, Say Something.

REGISTER NOW! DEADLINE IS MARCH 30, 2018!



Register Now! Saturday, April 7, 2018



The Foundation for New Education Initiatives (FNEI) and Superintendent Alberto M. Carvalho will team up once again to host the 3rd Annual Race for Education on April 7, benefiting local public schools. FNEI will donate a percentage of race proceeds to participating schools based on the number of participants each school team registers. Participants are encouraged to run for a school team. Registration is now open at: www.athlinks.com/event/superintendents-5k-challenge-walkrun-167578 Adults may register as a Runner/Walker with a \$30.00 + \$3.03 registration fee. Students have three options to choose from: 5K, 1-mile Run, and the Kids Dash for children ages 2-9. Registration for each student option is \$10.00 + \$1.68 registration fee. Participants have the option of registering as an individual or joining an existing team.

HELPING STUDENTS COPE WITH SCHOOL TRAGEDY

The tragic school shooting that took place in neighboring Broward County Public Schools may cause children confusion and emotional stress. Parents must be prepared to help children cope with the aftermath of this tragedy.



Children should be encouraged to continue with their normal routines and it should be emphasized that everyone is doing their very best to keep them safe and secure.

The National Association of School Psychologists recommends that following tips for parents when speaking to their children about violence:

- 1) Reassure children that they are safe.
- 2) Make time to talk.
- 3) Keep your explanations developmentally appropriate.
- 4) Review safety procedures.
- 5) Observe children's emotional state.
- 6) Limit television viewing of these events.
- 7) Maintain a normal routine.

For additional resources, please visit: <http://bit.ly/2ELoKbN> or <http://www.nasponline.org/>.

2018 - 2019 SCHOOL CALENDARS



The approved 2018-2019 School Calendars were jointly developed by the School Calendar Ad Hoc Committee, comprised of representatives from M-DCPS, UTD, and the PTA/PTSA. The first day of school for students will be August 20, 2018.

For more information visit, www.dadeschools.net/calendars



CYBER THREATS
As the U.S. mourns the victims of the tragedy that took place at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, M-DCPS and districts around the country are dealing with a rash of social media threats. M-DCPS is reminding parents and students that a written threat to kill or harm is a felony, will not be tolerated and perpetrators will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. Please speak to your children about this.

PARENT E-TIPS:

Primary: Build Your Child's Math Skills
<http://bit.ly/2Fac18Z>

Secondary: Are You Putting Too Much Parent Pressure on Your Teen?
<http://bit.ly/2oE69VI>



www.dadeschools.net

SOCIAL MEDIA



@MDCPS
@MiamiSup



MiamiSchools
AlbertoMCarvalho1



@MiamiSchools
@MiamiSup



MiamiSchools

Stay connected with Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Make sure you follow us on social media for the latest news and updates regarding the school district. #MDCPSConnects

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida

- Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair
- Dr. Martin Karp, Vice Chair
- Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall
- Susie V. Castillo
- Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman
- Dr. Steve Gallon III
- Lubby Navarro
- Dr. Marta Pérez
- Mari Tere Rojas
- Alberto M. Carvalho
- Superintendent of Schools
- Bryce Febres
- Student Advisor to the School Board

Produced by the Office of Communications

Daisy Gonzalez-Diego
Chief Communications Officer